

Minutes of the 86th AGM held at Alexander Stadium, Birmingham, 11 March 2011 at 7.30pm
Birmingham & District Invitation Cross-Country League
1926 – 2011.

Apologies for Absence.

These were received from Vince Carroll (Rugby & Northampton), Graham Heeley (Referee, Sparkhill), Terry & Pat Taylor (Officials, Nuneaton), Betty Downes (Past President), Ken Westley (formerly West Bromwich), Graham Allen (Race Secretary, Stafford Harriers), Rex Tomlinson (Oak Park), Brian Shepherd (Official, Dudley & Stourbridge), Mike Doyle (Past President, Official), Jim Skidmore (Past President, Official, Dudley & Stourbridge), Pam Davies (Official), Steve Marklew (RSC), Ernie Johnson (Official, City Of Stoke), Phillip Gould (Kenilworth Runners), Cindy Morrisette (Official, Staffs Moorlands), Andrew Sheridan (Warwick Uni), Ben Snowball (Loughborough Students).

Present at the Meeting.

Bob Carey (Past President Race Secretary, Sphinx), Paul Bergin (Sphinx AC), Ted Schuck, John Mills (Past Presidents) Dave McNamee (Assistant Secretary, Auditor, Cheltenham & County), Peter Burns (Stafford Harriers), Noel McKakley (Race Referee), Rita Brownlie (Midland Women's CC Secretary/Broms & Redditch), Martin Ludford, Richard Carney (B'ham Running Athletic & Tri), John Peet, (President Elect, Official, Tamworth AC) Peter Banks (Coventry Godiva), Kay Adcocks (Official), Bill Adcocks (Past President/ Official, Coventry Godiva), Stan Hawes (West Bromwich), John Vickers (Official), Peter Robinson (Black Country Tri Athletes), Dave Winter (Sparkhill), Dave Long (RSC), Geoff Wheeler, Andy Rea (Centurion), Len Quartly (Broms & Redd), Terry Egan (Rugby & Northampton), Margery Ewington (Past President /Nuneaton, Official), Barry Ewington (Past President, Official, Nuneaton), Peter Hough, Andrew Sedgley (Telford Harriers), Elliot Prince, George Williams (Official/Cheltenham & County Harriers), M. Deakin (Halesowen AC), Rob Andrew (Bournville Harriers), Noel Butler, Dave Blower (Leamington C & AC), Danny Tolhurst (Stratford AC), Mike Buntin (Tipton Harriers), Ian Clarke (Stourbridge AC), Dave Williams (Tamworth AC), Colin Thompson (Wolverhampton & Bilston AC) Terry Haines (Severn AC), Carolyn Franks (Hon Sec/Treasurer)

Obituary

The President asked the meeting to stand for a minute silence for the following the sad loss of Alan Hemsley (a Past President, Massey Ferguson) who was active as league Secretary for the fourth Division.

Minutes of the 84th. A.G.M.

The meeting accepted the minutes of the AGM and the Executive minutes with the following change to the date of the Executive minutes from March to February. Kenilworth also spotted the error in the Teams for the coming season. It should have Dudley & Stourbridge Harriers in Division Two & Kidderminster in Division Three.

Matters Arising from the Minutes.

There were no matters arising.

Statement of Accounts.

Dave McNamee explained that due to the earlier date for the AGM it had been difficult for promoting clubs to get all their invoices in, so there are still several outstanding which unfortunately means there will actually be a small loss for this last season. Interest rates are extremely low so it has been recommended from the Executive meeting to investigate other possibilities of investment.

Clubs were asked to inform the Treasurer if they pay by Direct Debit and to let her know in advance when it will be paid in. John Mills proposed that meeting accept the accounts; Ted Schuck seconded this. The Meeting unanimously accepted the statement of accounts.

Presidents Address.

I introduced myself by wearing my Secretary's hat, Treasurer's hat & finally my President's Hat! Quite a load, but with sufficient broad shoulders to carry the weight. I informed the meeting how I had been overwhelmed to be put forward for the post of President & felt highly honoured to hold this esteemed position when I actually had only been officially with the league since 2004 (though previously I had been a collator, stapler, envelop scribe & stuffer, stamper & post lady!) as Cliff's number admirer.

My interest in the sport stems back to my Junior school days recalling sprinting on an uneven park track & hitting the dips. At Secondary School I was fortunate to have a Headmistress who did 'physical jerks' prior to the school day. In my final year I became the House Captain & fondly remember motivating my team to win & being presented with the Trophy by Herb Elliott (who was at Cambridge University). In these days I was only allowed to do 150 yards, Long Jump, high Jump, & was allowed to go & teach myself discus. It was enough to inspire me to join Cambridge & Coleridge AC but I only remember one fixture for the ladies.

While at College I attend an Outbound course & really enjoyed the success of winning the cross-country race but with no encouragement to take it further. Who knows I might have been an International! But life took me to Gloucestershire for my teaching career. After one year in post in the September we had the AGM of our local School Athletic Association. The PE chap asked me if I was going & that I should vote for Cliff to be Secretary. He had only just arrived at my school & I hardly knew him so I went to the meeting but did not vote for him! Nevertheless he got the post. The following summer there was a fixture & having just passed my driving test & knowing he did not drive I offered him a lift and after the fixture a lift home. This kind gesture of mine lead Cliff to invite me to play tennis the following day – the days of love started!

Cliff's other love was the Birmingham & District Invitation Cross Country League. I was also steeped in athletics via School acting as the County Team Manager for Cross Country for 17years/ Course Organiser & then taking on the Throws for the club. With my own personal experience & observing Cliff's meticulous attention to detail with the organisation of the league I knew I could come to the rescue of the League on Cliff's passing providing I had help from Dave McNamee & fortunately he agreed to assist me.

It has been a very special privilege to have been the League's President for this past year. I have enjoyed my constitution walking the courses & giving athletes encouragement & being able to thank the many marshals personally. We have a great league to be proud of & I hope the league thrill for many years to come.

League Secretaries Reports

These had been sent out prior to the meeting. There were no matters arising and they were accepted by the meeting.

Secretary's Report

It was pleasing to have another year where we were fortunate to have good weather on race days enabling all host clubs to promote the races. We are most indebted to these clubs. In this day & age of technology it is now obvious that the host clubs must provide the Post Code of the registration base.

The Secretary gave a special vote of thanks to Peter Banks for kindly stepping in as Division one Race Secretary as a result of Bill Adcocks's illness. It was however, very pleasing to see Bill at the final fixture. Living close by to Bill, Peter was able to liase with the wise owl & the Secretary was delighted to report that this partnership has been agreed to for the coming season & hence taking some pressure off Bill.

With no Birmingham Cross Challenge & hence no sponsorship our venture for the first race of the season with all divisions, plus the Midland Ladies at Leamington created a real jamboree of enthusiastic, likeminded people enjoying the two races. The Ladies race had to be delayed as Rita Brownlie was dealing with all the entries on her own due to Mary Hodges unavailability plus the largest entry seen by the women. If the AGM agrees to repeating this for next season then methods of entry for the women will need to be looked at.

However, on the downside we had an extremely unfortunate incident with one club, which resulted in a lot of time spent on emails/phone calls with the Executive. The result will be seen later in the meeting with the Executive putting forward rule changes. What would in the past have been a 'gentleman's agreement' seems no longer to apply. It was a good job the Secretary has broad shoulders to deal with such unpleasant circumstances. The Secretary had received prior to the day numerous emails /phone calls requesting for a guest runner to run in the race. The rules quite clearly state NO GUESTS. On the day the Secretary was asked if a runner could run as a guest, but was informed that this was not allowed. Subsequently, this was totally ignored.

One PLEA the Secretary would ask is that clubs ensure that once we have sent out all the information for the season they ensure the key people who will be in charge of their team is given ALL the relevant information so that there is no question of ignorance of the rules & the requirements for their club. This also applies to all clubs NON HOSTING a fixture or providing any appointed officials. Last season all non-hosting clubs were sent out duties that their club would be required to perform on a rota basis. Lots of clubs looked blank at the Referee when asked who was doing their appointed job. As a result for the coming year clubs will be sent a reminder a fortnight prior to the race day reminding them of their responsibility for the coming race.

On a positive note it was good to welcome Cindy Morrissette (Staff Moorlands) as a Judge for Division One & likewise it is pleasing to officially recruit Alison Mills (Nuneaton Harriers) as a judge for Division Three for next season.

The Secretary informed the meeting that she had enjoyed visiting each division, walking the course except for Division Two where she was asked to look after the Mayoress - a positive thing to do to highlight to the powers that be what a terrific sport this is. The Secretary expressed her sincere thanks to all host clubs who work tirelessly pre race day, on race day & after everyone has gone home. Top marks go to Sphinx for their delicious refreshments!

This season I decided to be thrifty & use up a lot of old numbers. To keep costs down it would be helpful if clubs could return all unused numbers to their Race Secretary as I predict that costs will rise considerably next season.

It was interesting to see the numbers competing this season: -

	DIVISION ONE	DIVISON TWO	DIVISION THREE
OCTOBER	227	214	168
DECEMBER	208	202	150(one club decided not to

			travel due to the snow)
JANUARY	197	234	162
FEBUARY	161(Universities had their championships close to this date)	227	153
TOTAL	793	877	633

It is interesting to see which folks read the information carefully – watch out for the deliberate mistake!

My grateful thanks to the Race Referees (Noel McKakley, Graham Heeley, & Jim Skidmore) who have ensured on the day that it is safe to run & that there are enough officials to deal with the result efficiently including guiding new folks from the non-hosting clubs to assist with the running of the event.

Race Secretaries have been amazing. The race is always on immediately after the actual race to see who can get their results in first to Dave McNamee. Again technology making it feasible to communicate faster with all the results in by Sunday evening. The January result is always extremely hard for Dave to publish as he is usually overwhelmed with work both paid & voluntary. A big thank you is owed to Bill Adcocks, Peter Banks, Graham Allen & Bob Carey for their part in making the league successful.

Finally, my sincere thanks must go to Dave McNamee for his constant support with the results & the website.

Promoting Clubs Risk Assessment / Permits / First Aid – Reminder.

- a) Risk Assessment/ Permits - Please ensure this form is completed & updated on the day. These can be downloaded from the Midland website.
- b) Permit forms – Promoting clubs must send this form to Rita Brownlie, 15, Three Oaks Road, Wythall, Birmingham, B47 6HE a.s.a.p. **This form must be displayed on the day.**
- c) First Aid – The Executive are looking at this to see if it possible to block book. Hosts clubs will be informed with all the information sent out to host clubs.

Officials for the Season

At this stage the Secretary is waiting to hear back from Colin Stone, Pete Lisseman & Rob Mulgrue as to whether they are still available to officiate. Although Graham Kelcher has decided not to continue, it is pleasing to report that all the other officials have agreed to carry on. Our thanks go to Graham for his assistance in the past. Those who carry on include Ted Schuck who will be turning 80 years old in April. Ted kindly said that because John Peet will be President this year, it will leave the Division Two light of judges.

Women’s Midland Cross Country League.

Rita Brownlie explained the difficulties that beset her on the first fixture but was pleased to report that there had been over 200 runners in every race this season. The new start time of 1.45pm was not a problem and the Midland Women’s Cross Country League would still like to be included with the Birmingham & District Invitation Cross Country League.

Constitution

Division RULE 5 add at the end.” Their decision will be final”.

ADD the following new rule after rule 8, this will become rule 9 & all the other rules will be renumbered.

RULE 9 Where any of the rules relating to eligibility to compete in the league are not adhered to, the offending individual(s) shall be disqualified for that race and their team will incur 500 penalty points. If a club is informed by the Honorary Secretary, Race Secretary or the Race Referee that they ARE contravening the eligibility league rules then that club will automatically be relegated to the division below at the end of the season. In the case of it being a club in the lowest division then that club would need to re-apply to compete in the league for the next season.

Present Rule 9 change the word “strength” in the first sentence to “**competitors**”.

Rule 9 f Change the words in bracket at the end to “**Best of 3 out of 4**”

Rule 9 Add **(i) Six Medals will be awarded to the winning ‘B’ team.**

Present Rule 14 Delete the word “officials”

Present Rule 18 Change the wording to “may”

Present Rule 20 Change the wording to “ The responsibility for the up to date engraving of the **One Trophy** is that of the holding club. The Club **MUST** return the League **Trophy** to the Divisional **Race Secretary** by the **Final** race of the season.

Mike Buntin proposed that these rule changes be accepted & it was seconded by Noel Butler and passed unanimously.

League Website

Dave McNamee informed the meeting that there really had not been any change in the running of the website. There are still archive results to put on the site & anyone with an IT background that would be willing to assist in this matter please contact Dave.

Make-up of the League for the 2010-2011 Season.

- (a) Aldridge, Droitwich AC, Stafford Triathletes & Telford Harriers have all asked to be reinstated. This was approved unanimously.
- (b) CLC Striders a new club based in Cheltenham had applied to join the league. This was accepted by the meeting. **(NOTE since the AGM the Secretary has been approached by Knowle & Dorridge AC to join. In consultation with the Executive this has been agreed to)**
- (c) Therefore the League make-up for the coming season is as follows:

<u>Division One</u>	<u>Division Two</u>	<u>Division Three</u>
Birchfield Harriers	Amazing Feet	Aldridge AC
Birmingham University	Bromsgrove & Redditch AC	Black Country Tri
BRAT	Centurion RR	Cobra RC
Bournville Harriers	Dudley & Stourbridge Harriers	CLC Striders
Cannock & Stafford AC	Gloucester AC	Droitwich Harriers
Cheltenham & County Harriers	Leamington C & AC	Dudley Kinswinford RC
Coventry Godiva Harriers	Newcastle (Staffs)	Kidderminster & Stourport AC
Halesowen AC	Rugby & Northampton AC	Knowle & Dorridge

Kenilworth RC
 Loughborough Students
 OWLS
 Royal Sutton Coldfield AC
 Staffs Moorlands
 Stoke AC
 Tipton Harriers
 Warwick University

Severn AC
 Solihull & Smallheath AC
 Sparkhill Harriers
 Sphinx AC
 Stratford upon Avon AC
 Tamworth AC
 Telford AC
 West Bromwich Harriers
 Wolverhampton & Bilston AC
 Worcester AC

Massey Ferguson
 Nuneaton Harriers
 Northbrook AC
 Oak Park RC
 Peel Road Runners
 Sneyd Strider
 Stafford Harriers
 Stafford Triathletes
 Stourbridge RC
 Trentham

A discussion took place regarding the possibility of changing the format to having 4 clubs to move up & four down to try to make it more competitive. It was decided that this should be taken to the Executive. ACTION: Executive

Affiliation

It had been agreed to keep the cost of affiliation at £65 and is due by the 1st July. Failure to pay by that date will result in a £10 levy but for clubs to note that it will be raised next year.

Dates Fixtures and Venues for the 2011 – 2012 Season.

- Denotes that the club is willing to have one of the three Women’s races. Rita Brownlie to confirm with the Secretary which three races the Women will use.

	<u>Division One</u>	<u>Division Two</u>	<u>Division Three</u>
12th November 2011	*Combined fixture at Leamington C & AC		
3rd December 2011	Bournville Harriers	* Rugby & Northampton AC	* Nuneaton Harriers
14th January 2012	Coventry Godiva	* Sphinx AC	???????????????
11th February 2012	*Cheltenham & County	*Wolverhampton & Bilston	* Stafford Harriers

Division Three- please note that we do not have a venue for the January fixture. Can your club come to the rescue please? If so please contact Carolyn Franks ASAP

HOST CLUBS –PLEASE provide a mobile phone number as a contact on the day.

Election of Officers & Officials.

Graham Heeley proposed John Peet as President of the League for the season of 2011 – 2012. In his absence Graham Heeley sent in the following information for his proposal: -

On behalf of Sparkhill Harriers I would like to nominate John Peet as President for the coming season.

As a very young man John Approached Arthur Black (Dave Black’s father) one evening in Tamworth Park and gave him such a good run for his money Arthur brought him along to Sparkhill

Harriers who had several athletes from Tamworth in the club at that time as there was no club in Tamworth.

John joined Sparkhill Harriers in October 1954 and had his first cross country race three weeks late in the Birmingham League as a Junior. The race was at RAF Bridgenorth in the 3rd Division of the League. This was followed by another league fixture at Smith's in Cheltenham.

In 1955 John departed into the Army for his National service, which resulted in him missing the next eight Birmingham League races as he was posted abroad. In total he competed in no less than 124 Birmingham League fixtures until being involved in a car accident, which curtailed his running activities. During his running career he only missed 10 league fixtures through Army commitments, one through sickness and the other for his brother's wedding.

On recovering from this accident John joined Tamworth who had recently started up a club in the town. However, he was far more useful to the club as an Electrician (his trade) and did several jobs including as groundsman & generally helped the club get on its feet. As a result he was made a Life Member of that club.

John first started to officiate at cross-country events in 1996 & soon became a regular member of the official's team travelling with his original club Sparkhill. He now not only helps at the Birmingham League but also at Midland & National level putting something back into the sport, which he enjoys so much.

With no other nominations the meeting the AGM were delighted to unanimously accept Graham Heeley's proposal to instate John as the incoming President.

President Elect: Executive proposed Terry Haines. This was accepted unanimously.

Secretary/ Treasurer: Carolyn Franks was proposed as by Bill Adcocks and seconded by Elliot Prince with no other nominations the meeting accepted this proposal unanimously.

Hon. Assistant Secretary/ Auditor & Webmaster: Dave McNamee was proposed by Carolyn Franks & seconded by Bob Carey. Dave was elected unanimously.

Representative to the Midland Cross Country Association - Ian Clarke. Proposed by Dave McNamee & Seconded by Carolyn Franks. This was approved by the AGM.

It was agreed to approve en bloc the officials below

	<u>1st. Div.</u>	<u>2nd. Div.</u>	<u>3rd. Div.</u>
Race Secretary	Bill Adcocks/Peter Banks	Bob Carey	Graham Allen
Race Referee	Noel McKakley	Graham Heeley	Jim Skidmore
Judges.	Kay Adcocks Cindy Morrisste	John Mills Pete Lisseman Rob Mulgrue Ted Schuck	Barry Ewington Alison Mills Pat Taylor Terry Taylor
Timekeepers.	John Vickers George Williams Ernie Johnson	Brian Shepherd David Bennett Colin Stone	Mike Doyle Pam Davies Margery Ewington

Any Other Business:

- 1) Peter Burns informed the meeting that the Midland Counties Cross Country Association will be holding a new Second Division Championships next season open to all clubs except Notts Ac, Coventry Godiva, Tipton Harriers, Bristol & West, OWLS & Birchfield. The winning team will be presented with the Cliff Franks Trophy.
 - 2) Dave McNamee reminded clubs that the Club information sheets were now available & would clubs please return with the most up to date correct club contact information
 - 3) Kay Adcocks asked why there was an imbalance of Officials. The Secretary pointed out that officials liked to follow their own teams which does cause problems at times.
 - 4) John Peet asked clubs to read all the information & to try to encourage their membership to get more involved.
 - 5) It was mentioned that it would have been nice to have some liquid refreshment.
- ACTION: CF to see if Birchfield Harriers could lay it on for the meeting next year.

Date and Venue of the 87th AGM

It was agreed to hold next years AGM on **Friday 9th March 2012 at Alexander Stadium, Birmingham at 7.30pm**

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm

WOMENS MIDLAND LEAGUE VENUES

These will be decided at their AGM and Clubs will be notified if they are required to host a women's race. Would all clubs/officials please note the above- all the women's races will start at 1.45pm at these venues.

Hosts clubs please send a copy of all details to the Midland Office – **AT LEAST 3 WEEKS BEFORE THE ACTUAL DATE**

MCAA, Alexander Stadium, Walsall Road, Perry Barr, Birmingham B42 2LR

Don't forget your affiliations are due by 1st JULY
A £10 levy will be charge for late affiliations.

The Affiliation is still only £65

Please send Cheques made payable to:

The Birmingham & District Invitation Cross-Country League

PLEASE SEND TO: -

Carolyn Franks
23 Salisbury Avenue
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL51 3BT.